

THE HOUSTON DAILY POST.

Houston Printing Company.

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J. PALMER, VICE-PRESIDENT.
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Under no circumstances will orders given by employees on the office be recognized and paid, or accepted in payment of accounts.

HOUSTON, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1899.
TEN PAGES TODAY.

THE WOOLLEN MILL TRUST.

The attention of the wool growers in West Texas, and also, particularly, the esteemed San Antonio Express, is invited to the fact that at Trenton, N. J., the other day, the new American Woolen company, another trust, was successfully launched with a capital of \$65,000,000.

This trust is rendered possible by the high tariff for which those interested in wool were clamoring when the Dingley bill was under consideration. The wool growers were loud and plaintive in their protests against the free wool clauses in the Wilson bill. Since then wool has been down to about the free wool basis. There has been a depression in the trade that has provoked widespread comment and complaint. The tariff has benefited but one class of men interested in wool—the manufacturers. With competition shut off, a tariff bonus and the home product at their mercy, the mills have been combined into a trust with the following record, according to the very best of authority—republican authority—the American Wool and Cotton Reporter:

It was said last week, when subscriptions were being received to the stock of the new American Woolen company, that the aggregate net earnings of the combined mills "for the last two years of 1897-98 show a dividend on the preferred stock of nearly 8 per cent on the common." To put it briefly, the trust, on its own representation, of \$2,500,000, to show about 6 1/2 per cent earned annually on \$40,000,000 of capitalization. The property acquired by the new trust, so far as can be estimated, are not capitalized at over \$1,500,000 at the most; consequently their actual profit have been earning during the last two years at the rate of nearly 35 per cent.

This trust will now proceed to limit production to suit its purposes. It will buy wool at its own figures and they will never be high again. The tariff has permitted the formation of this trust and put the wool growing interest completely at its mercy. The wool growers cried for the high duty and got it—and so long as it exists can dance attendance upon but one buyer, who can fix his own price for the wool he is disposed to buy, while piling up the amount of the duty on the price of the woolen goods which he sells back to the sheep men. He catches the grower "coming in and going."

But, as the Wool and Cotton Reporter says, whom the gods would destroy they first make mad. "This is the only language we can find that properly describes the present trust mania. There can be but one conclusion to the movement—a great commercial and financial crash!" This crash will not come, however, until the people knock the props from under these giant combines—which they are sure to do after awhile, when the enormity of the injury being done to the country is more thoroughly appreciated. The wool men will do well to revise their opinions and cease to assist in fostering the trusts through Dingley tariffs.

QUESTIONS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

There appears to be a tendency among State legislators throughout the country generally to interfere with even the ordinary administration of affairs in incorporated cities, such as the management of the police department, the fire department, or of the public schools. The proper view from a democratic standpoint would suggest just the reverse policy.

We have seen something of this undemocratic spirit in our own legislature as exemplified in the amendment to the text book law. In New York a big fight is in progress over several bills that look to placing the city more under the control of the State in its local affairs than at present, and in Connecticut a bill is actually pending in the legislature that proposes to fix the wages which New Haven shall pay its fire department.

It will be remembered that when the charter of Greater New York was formed the idea was not only to grant the fullest possible measure of local self-government, but to concentrate the responsibility for the administration of public affairs in the greatest degree in the hands of the mayor. This was a practical commingling of the democratic and business ideas, but unfortunately politics and greed have been seeking ever since to render the plan obsolete by invoking legislative interference on any and all propositions. Legislators should give the fullest measure of self-government to the cities and towns—except as the city demanded charter amendments. There ought, however, to be some way of ascertaining what

the majority sentiment demands in the matter of amendments before action upon them by the legislature. That will once known, the legislature should act as a matter of course and cease the wrangling and consumption of public time by members, as now seen, who have no interest whatever in the questions at issue.

The public's desires could be easily ascertained by the full and open discussion of proposed amendments in the city council and their submission to the citizens at a popular primary before they are introduced in the legislature. Such a plan would be a modified form of the initiative and referendum, but would not be objectionable for that reason and would carry out the democratic idea of local self-government as it should be applied to incorporated communities.

It appears now that the residents of cities live under local laws the greater portion of the time that they never passed upon in their sovereign or independent capacity as citizens! Too often the prejudices of outsiders in the legislature shape these local laws, or prevent the grants of legitimate authority earnestly desired possibly by a majority of the citizens who are alone to be affected. There is a wide field for reform in such matters and a very conspicuous opportunity for the application of some good democratic doctrine that is now ignored by professionally good democrats!

THE COLLECTION OF BACK TAXES.

The forced collection of back taxes by the wholesale institution of suits at this time is creating trouble and, in many cases, heavy losses and suffering enough. In this community, to justify an earnest and prompt appeal to the legislature or some other authority for relief.

Intolerable hardship is occasioned in the large majority of cases. To go back ten to twenty years and rake up suits for taxes upon old records that, as has been amply shown, are often imperfect and misleading, results in finding hundreds of people unprepared to present the receipts which they once had but have lost. Hundreds of others have bought property with the understanding that the back taxes had been paid, and have kept up their own payments regularly since, only to find now that after all their sacrifices they are in danger of losing their homes! Suits have been instituted against many people who have been able to produce their tax receipts.

This sudden collection spam has, in a word, thrown the community into alarm and confusion and is putting a burden upon the people greater than large numbers of them can bear. It is all the more outrageous when it is remembered that the trouble arises chiefly from the neglect of duty of officials in the past.

The private individual is forced to use "diligence" in the collection of his debts. In all other cases of debt the Statutes of limitations apply and they should, both in law and morals, apply in the collection of taxes. Suits such as are now being instituted and pressed amount simply in hundreds of cases to an open and unjust confiscation of the citizens' property—chiefly from the comparatively poor who are unable now to raise any considerable sum to liquidate taxes that they thought had been paid long ago! No officials should be permitted to rake over the dead embers of the past for the purpose of confiscating the citizens' property in this way. Municipal, county and State governments should be held to the same diligence in collecting debts that is required of the citizen.

It may or may not be too late to appeal to the legislature for relief, either through extending the Statutes of limitations to such cases, or by the enactment of a measure postponing such collections of back taxes. It is not too late possibly to secure an amendment to the city charter covering the case of this city.

Have the city authorities thought of such an amendment to protect their constituents against injustice and suffering in the premises? If not, the city council might call a halt by adopting a "stay law" and protecting citizens against suits until legislative action can be had in the premises. The situation is certainly one that urgently demands a measure of relief in some way.

Old Gomez is very naturally and very properly becoming disgusted with the ingratitude, both toward himself and the United States, of those Cubans who are attempting to blot the efforts looking to the rapid pacification of the island. If it were not for "martyrizing" the Cuban assembly, it would be the proper way to run its members in under the vag law.

The State senate said the horse was sixteen feet high and sticks to it!

Mexico's new ambassador and President McKinley have exchanged pleasant greetings and expressed a hope for closer political and trade relations. In the meantime the tariffs of the two countries put them as wide apart commercially as the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Diplomatic courtesies are as a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

The blizzards and snow storms in the Northwest at this time have effectively frozen out all the recent jokes up there at the expense of the "Sunny South!"

made are sold at public auction to the highest bidder. The general public to give animals' agents free access to those auction sales and put a speedy end to the war.

Mr. Henry Watterson modestly confesses that, if given the power, he would cheerfully undertake to construct a policy for the democratic party, which, in his opinion, would bring order and victory out of what he chooses to call the chaos of factions. But before even the gigantic intellect of the editor of the Courier-Journal, in spite of his well known prudence, discretion, great executive ability and profound statesmanship, would undertake the task which he has so frequently discarded to the utter dismay of all democrats, he would engage in some preliminary cogitation, whether of construction, destruction or negation, the reader must judge for himself. In other words, Mr. Watterson says he would attempt the impossible task of combining the two extremes in American politics. He would try to harness together forces which everybody knows to be exerting all of their power in opposite directions. But let Mr. Watterson speak for himself:

"But, before it began the work of reconstruction, it would throw out the debris of populism which have accumulated among the general mass of democratic wreckage."

As Germany, Great Britain and the United States are all full-grown and heavily armed, no apprehension is felt that the "Samson incident" will lead to a fight.

Hon. Champ Clark of Missouri demonstrates the fact that every man, woman and child in this country, whether they appreciate the fact or not, is paying \$12.97 per year taxes for McKinleyism.

Houston is always glad to see visitors from other sections of the country. They recognize our many advantages and good points at once and never fail to at least indirectly rebuke that mawkish element still here that can not appreciate the opportunities around them.

Among the bills pending in the legislature that ought to pass by all means is the one regulating the sale of cocaine and other poisonous drugs. And it ought to pass in terms that can not be evaded.

Friends of the Americans imprisoned in Guatemala are informed that the death penalty will not be inflicted in these cases. The Central Americans can always depend on their vile dungeons doing the work with less spectacular effect and fewer complications.

It ought to be kept before this community that Houston's own citizens can accomplish almost anything they want to do for the good of this city if they will only do it—the question of expansion is right up to us!

Texas has been giving murderers plenty of rope rather freely of late. The lesson ought to be a salutary one. It is still easy, however, for the criminal with "connections," or money, to profit by the law's technicalities and delays.

A Difference of Opinion.

It appears that the health officers of Louisiana do not share the rosy view of Havana's sanitary condition communicated to the Philadelphia Press by its proprietor, editor in chief, Postmaster General Smith. That eminent public official has been filling his newspaper with glowing accounts of the hygienic revolution achieved by General Ludlow in Havana, telling the readers of the Press how those who are becoming sanitarians to which the disease-sticks the judged, and the feeble of this country will soon resort in search of health. He describes yellow fever as a fifth disease, and explains how at an early day it was banished from the island and its inhabitants destroyed. Outside of health resort literature and the legends that accompany woodcut of before and after taking, we have seldom, if ever, read anything quite as beautiful.

But it happens that the Second regiment of Louisiana volunteers—"immunes," perhaps they should be called—were sent to be mustered out. They have come straight from that ideal sanitarian, Havana, and instead of welcoming them with outstretched arms, the health authorities of their own State appear to regard their advent with a suspicion not wholly free from fear. It is a fact, indeed, that the following official correspondence is significant:

"Dr. Edmund Souchon, President Board of Health, New Orleans, La., March 23, 1899.—Just seen telegram from Porter, at Key West, to the mayor of Savannah, that two companies of troops from Havana would pass today by way of Tampa without disinfection. Brewer reports the condition of Havana very bad. Savannah and Charleston will refuse their admission. Now on way to quarantine. C. P. Wilkinson."

"I am taking steps to stop these soldiers at Louisiana State line if they are turned back upon us. The following telegram was sent to the secretary of war and Wyman, United States Marine Hospital service, Washington, D. C.:

"Louisiana State Board of Health wires me that its inspector telegraphed that two companies of troops would pass from Havana to Tampa today without disinfection. Condition of Havana is reported to be bad, and that Savannah and Charleston will refuse their admission. Louisiana will refuse their admission. Now on way to quarantine. C. P. Wilkinson."

"We begin to fear that these much-lauded sanitarians, the volunteers, are being used by General Wood and Ludlow, and celebrated in such mellifluous eloquence by the Hon. Mr. Smith of the Philadelphia Press, whatever may be the effect upon the Northern imagination, are not influencing opinion in those sections of the country where yellow fever is understood, and where the question of the slightest information or experience would venture to say that the malady is the product of filth or any other demonstrated cause. Clear, Louisiana is not ready to admit an invasion from Havana on the mere strength of General Ludlow's hygienic exploits or the fervent assurances of the Hon. Mr. Smith. There is a distinct difference of opinion between these glib amateurs and the modest, simple and business-like professionals of the South."

It is a very melancholy complication, but we are still in hope that scientific authority will be considered, even in opposition to gold lace and political expediency.

HENRY EMBRACES POPULISM.

From the Louisville Dispatch.

Mr. Henry Watterson modestly confesses that, if given the power, he would cheerfully undertake to construct a policy for the democratic party, which, in his opinion, would bring order and victory out of what he chooses to call the chaos of factions. But before even the gigantic intellect of the editor of the Courier-Journal, in spite of his well known prudence, discretion, great executive ability and profound statesmanship, would undertake the task which he has so frequently discarded to the utter dismay of all democrats, he would engage in some preliminary cogitation, whether of construction, destruction or negation, the reader must judge for himself. In other words, Mr. Watterson says he would attempt the impossible task of combining the two extremes in American politics. He would try to harness together forces which everybody knows to be exerting all of their power in opposite directions. But let Mr. Watterson speak for himself:

"But, before it began the work of reconstruction, it would throw out the debris of populism which have accumulated among the general mass of democratic wreckage."

Are these utterances sincere? Has the Courier-Journal, while clinging to its financial heresy, undergone even a more radical political change of heart than would be necessary to its advocacy of the democratic position on the money question? Have the Dispatch and the people of Kentucky opened the eyes of Mr. Watterson and the Haidemans to the impending fate of the organs of the trusts and organized wealth? Can it be that the fiercest on mortgages and depressing patronage have converted the Courier-Journal from plutocrat to proletarian? Or has the loss of power to betray the people reduced the old lady to this extremity?

The people naturally look with suspicion upon the anti-trust agitator who ignores the greatest of all trusts and the parent of the whole monstrous brood—the money trust. The people who compose the democratic party naturally distrust the man who talks about accepting the purchased and intimidated verdict of 1896 on the money question. The advocate of imperialism can not be a democrat. Democracy abhors everything which seeks to weaken the power of the people or to undermine the principle of popular government. We can not go to the country proposing government control of all public franchises in conjunction with a policy that threatens to make the government a military dictatorship. We can not consistently go forward with the progressive democratic opposition to the principle of monarchy in industrial affairs, and at the same time seek to re-establish the status principles in the political sphere. We have no alchemy by which oil and water can be mixed. The motive power of the imperialist movement is the great combinations of capital which Mr. Watterson would destroy. The proposed political imperialism is designed to extend, perfect and perpetuate the industrial imperialism.

TWISTING CYCLONES.

A Letter from 'The Post's' Weather Prophet About Them.

The following letter was written by Mr. W. T. Foster of St. Joseph, Mo., in reply to an inquiry from Captain Philip Fall:

St. Joseph, Mo., March 29.—Dear Sir: In reply to yours of the 24th: Tornadoes occur only in the cyclones (low barometers) that come in from the northwest; never the gust of tropical cyclones (hurricanes). The tornado occurs in the southeast quadrant of the low or storm center, between a northern "low" and a southern "high," never between a southern "low" and a northern "high."

The path of the northern low, or cyclone, or storm center, is across the northeast corner of Texas, and it does not go far enough south to permit tornadoes in your section, although the records show that seven tornadoes have occurred south of the thirty-third parallel west of Houston and seven others north and near that parallel west of Houston.

The "lows" from the northwest go farther south after passing east of the Mississippi, the Red river being a favorite route, and hence an increase of tornadoes east of the Mississippi.

Most of the low, or storm centers, that visit Texas belong to the tropical hurricane class, and that class of storms does not go far enough south to permit tornadoes in your section. All your storm centers that come by way of El Paso or from points south, or from the gulf, are tropical hurricanes, and are harmless as to tornadoes. Very respectfully, W. T. Foster.

La Grange Locals.

La Grange, Texas, March 31.—The commissioners court met in special session today. The object was for the purpose of considering the plans stipulated in a contract between the Wrought Iron Bridge company of Canton, Ohio, through its agent, Mr. Anderson, and the court, for the building of the steel approach of 200 feet to the east end of the Colorado river bridge. The court met at the request of Mr. Anderson, who has been here for several days, and through the whole day was spent in considering the matter, no definite conclusions have yet been reached.

The teachers' institute, which was to hold its session today, but on account of the small attendance, soon after adjourned.

Patients Ready for Discharge.

Galveston, Texas, March 31.—City Health Physician Fisher has established a detention camp for smallpox patients and persons who have been exposed. It is situated upon a little elevation east of First street, east of the city. There are fourteen tents, sanitary, substantial and guard equipment, with Dr. Ingalls and Yeager in charge.

The disease seems to be under complete control. The original patients are convalescent and ready to be discharged. The report of the health officer said no new cases have been reported today. There are three patients in the hospital department and five persons who have been exposed are in the detention camp.

Meeting of Creditors.

Lockhart, Texas, March 31.—Mr. Louis Halls, the oldest saloon man in the city, who failed in business several years since, has been adjudged a bankrupt in the United States district court at Austin, and the meeting of his creditors will be held at the office of the referee in Austin on the 1st day of April, 1899, at 10 o'clock a. m.

FEDERAL TREASURY AND OPPOSED TO BANKS OF ISSUE.

Perhaps this is the debris of populism Mr. Watterson would throw out of the democratic party. If so, he should remember that the democrats have not gone all the way with the populists on the paper currency question, and that all of these questions are regarded as of minor importance by most populists, and especially by the more extreme socialistic element, as compared with those populist plans which Mr. Watterson so tenderly and earnestly takes to his bosom. Less than three weeks ago our contemporary was complaining that the Chicago platform, aside from its declarations on the money question, was too radical. Now comes a programme that outdoes Herod. Added to acquiescence in the revolutionary policy of the McKinley administration for the establishment of an empire on the ruins of the republic is a proposition for the radical domestic policy of the most extreme populist and socialistic element. Mr. Watterson's advocacy of imperialism finds no sympathy save in the republican ranks. While his declaration in favor of government ownership of railroads and the reversion to the people of all public franchises now diverted to private use, undoubtedly finds extensive endorsement among the masses of all political parties, only the populists have put it in their platform.

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A MARRIAGE.

At 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon Rev. E. D. Campbell of Childress, Texas, and Miss Minnie Gunn, united in the holy bonds of wedlock, the ceremony being performed at the Presbyterian manse by Rev. F. E. Robbins, pastor of the Presbyterian church.

LOCAL NOTES.

San Park, president of the Industrial Lumber company, has returned from a business trip to Mexico.

The Dixie club is arranging for a big dance next week. The club has been resting during Lent.

Marriage licenses have been issued to Robert D. Campbell and Miss Minnie M. Gunn, and Othello H. Barker and Miss Emma M. Finney.

Colonel R. P. Hunsall, special treasury agent at Sabal, La., returned to his headquarters this morning. He has been at the College street infirmary for several days suffering with a severe attack of malaria.

The Nona Mills company will begin operations at Levee, La., next week. In removing machinery from the former site on the Sabine and East Texas and rebuilding at Levee, the Nona company has considerably increased the capacity of the mill.

THE BOLL WEEVIL.

Cotton Pest Undoubtedly Survived the Severe Cold of Last Winter.

Wharton, Texas, March 31.—Startling as it may appear, doubt no longer exists here relative to the existence of the boll weevil. It is a certainty that the insect has survived the terrible blizzard of February last. Last week Planter Brythwood produced a live specimen, which was thought to be an exception, and the idea was scattered that the weevil could be alive after the severe winter. Today Mr. Brythwood has on exhibition live specimens, exhibiting the same to emphasize the truth of his assertions that the weevil still exists. Leading planters tell The Post correspondent that these facts should by all means be published to the end that the truth might be known.

ONE DEAD, ONE BADLY WOUNDED.

Negro Woman Avenged the Wrong by Killing the Man.

Dalingerfield, Texas, March 31.—In a difficulty at Mount Olive church, in Cass county, night before last, Harriett Black shot and killed Granville Hampton and Nero Hampton shot Pompey Black through the breast, inflicting a serious wound. All the parties are negroes. Harriett Black and Granville Hampton were with wronging her and shot him in revenge. Pompey Black is the father of Harriett Black, and Nero Hampton is a brother of the dead man.

Judge O. E. Findlay Dead.

Graham, Texas, March 30.—Hon. Oscar E. Findlay died here today after a long illness from pneumonia. He was a salient Confederate officer and was wounded and crippled for life at Gettysburg. He came to Graham many years ago from Galveston and has been a practicing lawyer here since. He has served in various official capacities and was of the city board at night. Dr. Thompson, city health officer, reports that Mitchell contracted disease in St. Louis and thence to Graham.

Street Car Lines Considered.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 31.—The consolidation of the Fort Worth street car lines with the City Line street car company, Superintendent Quigg reports, will fill the position for the street car company, which company is now in the process of being organized.

Posters' Local Forecasts.

The storm waves will reach this section and the other changes will reach at and within 100 miles of Houston within twenty-four hours of 8 p. m. of the date given below.

April 1—Threatening.

NEWS BUDGET FROM BEAUMONT.

FINAL STEPS TOWARD THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW BANK.

No New Cases of Smallpox Reported. Every Precaution Being Taken to Guard Against Epidemic.

Beaumont, Texas, March 31.—R. H. Washburn of Crowley, La., organizer of National banks, whose presence in this city a few weeks ago was announced, is again in Beaumont today. On the former visit Mr. Washburn arranged the preliminary steps for establishing a new bank to be known as the National Bank of Beaumont, and it is the intention to complete the organization tonight.

To this end parties interested are conferring at the office of Mr. V. Weiss and it is the expectation that a board of directors, and possibly officers, will be elected. The bank will have a capital stock of \$100,000 and it is understood, will do business in the new brick block recently built on Pearl street by Mr. V. Weiss.

Mr. Washburn says the comptroller of currency at Washington has authorized organization of the bank, and he thinks everything will be satisfactorily arranged tonight. The result of tonight's meeting will not be made public tomorrow.

THE SMALLPOX.

There are no new developments in the smallpox situation today; no new cases have been reported, though the city health officer has been called to look at a few cases of rosella.

Riars and Simpson, the two cases found yesterday, are at the pesthouse near the Southern Pacific stock pens, west of the city. They have been given comfortable quarters in a tent and are receiving most attentive and careful nursing. Riars' case is regarded as serious. He has smallpox in what may be regarded a malignant form, though it is believed he will recover. Simpson only has a mild type of varioloid, and the fact that he had recently been vaccinated gives the city health officer hopes of an early and complete recovery.

The parties who are known to have been exposed, or who were in the same house with Simpson, are also at the pesthouse. They are quarantined in the pesthouse, Dr. Calhoun places them there, and the patients in tents, because one of the women had a very young baby that was suffering with the crop.

The camp is strictly guarded and it is practically impossible for the disease to spread from this quarter. City Health Officer Calhoun has matters well in hand and smallpox has ceased to be a topic of street conversation.

HEWN TIES.

Manufacture of hewn ties is becoming a considerable industry along the line of the Sabine and East Texas railroad. There are now five camps along the road—Hooks, Swich, Nabers, Hillister, Wolston and Seneca—and at each place the shipment of a car per day. The tie hewers are operating on what are known as cut over land, that is, land from which all timber that could be profitably cut for the saw mills has been removed. In addition to hewers, the operations include piling, many sticks being shipped. The tie camps are operated by William Cameron & Co., and have developed into an industry of considerable importance and furnish lucrative employment to a large number of men.

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April 1—Threatening.

HARD SLEET IN NORTH TEXAS.

Denton, Denton County, Texas, March 31.—A hard sleet fell here today for more than an hour, following in the wake of cold wave that struck North Texas last night. Old timers say that sleet this time of the year is without a precedent.

San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas, March 31.—This morning at 5 o'clock a cold and sleet commenced falling and for several hours everything was covered with ice. But at 12 o'clock it moderated and considerably and the sleet disappeared.

Paris, Lamar County, Texas, March 31.—Sleet and occasional flakes of snow were here all the afternoon. Tonight it is cold and slightly warmer.

Denison, Grayson County, Texas, March 31.—The weather is unprecedented. Howling bitter cold, northerly breeze. There will be a freeze tonight.

Washburn, Ellis County, Texas, March 31.—The farmers have been so far from rain which they have been expecting. The ground is yet hard and the spring rains carry off the dust in great clouds. Rain is badly needed to facilitate farming operations. Stock water is needed as well as rain.

Lockhart, Caldwell County, Texas, March 31.—Another cold, blustery night here this morning about daybreak, and the thermometer is now rapidly falling. The prospect for a freeze tonight is good, and a chance for rain are again possible. Information has